



WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM	<u>KS</u>
Finance	<u>VB</u>
DA	<u>-</u>
Risk Mgt.	<u>-</u>
HR	<u>-</u>
Other	<u>-</u>

STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: June 28, 2016

DATE: June 1, 2016
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Social Services
ahowell@washoecounty.us 775.785.8600

THROUGH: Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the Department of Social Services to expend up to \$472,650.00 in FY17 from Children's Services Account 710712 Family Preservation to expeditiously benefit children and families who are clients of the Department to promote keeping families intact. These expenditures shall include the use of special purchase orders, purchase orders, procards and gift cards to purchase specific items, support services, food to include Thanksgiving and Christmas food, and gifts as well as Adoption Day activities and expenses. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Authorize the Department of Social Services to expend up to \$472,650.00 in FY17 from Children's Services Account 710712 Family Preservation to expeditiously benefit children and families who are clients of the Department to promote keeping families intact.

County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 14, 2015, the Board approved the Department to expend up to \$280,674.00 in FY16 from Children's Services Account 710712 Family Preservation.

Although the Department has Board approved line items in the FY17 budget, each year the Comptroller's Office requests the Board authorize many of the expenditures Social Services makes from this account. The Comptroller agreed that Board approval of the intent for expenditures would suffice for their requirement on authorization. As such, the Board has approved these expenditures annually since 2005.

BACKGROUND

Expenditures from these accounts are to benefit children and families referred to the Department, to keep families intact and to expedite reunification of children with parents.

AGENDA ITEM # 21

NRS Section 432B.550, Subsection 1 mandates that reasonable efforts be made to keep families together. The funds assist in meeting the reasonable efforts requirement mandated. The account pays for, but is not limited to such things as home repairs, rental assistance, utility bills, food, personal needs, school and event photographs of children, bus passes and other miscellaneous needs, items, and events for children. The Department also pays for such things as Christmas toys/clothes for children in a deprived state when no other services are available. In addition, we allow foster parents to purchase nominal gifts for the children in foster care on their birthdays.

In many cases, the goods or services make the difference to keep the family together. If the child is removed from the parents' home and placed in emergency care, the agency pays approximately \$176 per day, per child. Since it would take over three weeks to receive Board approval every time we needed to provide such aid, we could be costing the County thousands of dollars in emergency care while we wait for authorization to spend as little as \$30.00.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY17 budget for Child Protective Services Fund 228 includes appropriation authority to spend up to \$472,650.00. Additional authority to include budget carry forward for our donation account is estimated.

280210 – 710712	CPS Case Management / Family Preservation	\$ 75,000.00
280910 – 710712	Integration Case Management / Family Preservation	\$ 75,000.00
10138 – 710712	Chafee Grant / Family Preservation	\$ 5,000.00
10749 – 710712	LIHTF Grant / Family Preservation	\$312,650.00
11189 – 710712	Adoption Incentive Grant / Family Preservation	\$ 5,000.00
20224 – 710712	Donations / Family Preservation	\$ 30,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Department of Social Services to expend up to \$472,650.00 in FY17 from Children's Services Account 710712 Family Preservation to expeditiously benefit children and families who are clients of the Department to promote keeping families intact. These expenditures shall include the use of special purchase orders, purchase orders, procards and gift cards to purchase specific items, support services, food to include Thanksgiving and Christmas food, and gifts as well as Adoption Day activities and expenses.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be to move to "authorize the Department of Social Services to expend up to \$472,650.00 in FY17 from Children's Services Account 710712 Family Preservation to expeditiously benefit children and families who are clients of the Department to promote keeping families intact. These expenditures shall include the use of special purchase orders, purchase orders, procards and gift cards to purchase specific items, support services, food to include Thanksgiving and Christmas food, and gifts as well as Adoption Day activities and expenses."